

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Paragraph [0016] at page 5 has been amended as follows:

[0016] It is therefore inventively provided to control the operation of the feedback compensator 5 by the embodiment shown according to Figure 2, in the simplest case to connect and disconnect. For control, an estimation unit 13 may be used that estimates the system distance, such that the feedback compensator 5 is first activated given very reduced or negative system distance. The estimation unit comprises a high-pass filter 6 and a low-pass filter 7. These are connected in parallel to the typical signal path between microphone 3 and hearing device signal processing 4, and they separate the output signal of the microphone 3, i.e., the input signal of the hearing device, into a high-frequency portion and a low-frequency portion.

Paragraph [0017] at page 5 has been amended as follows:

[0017] A feature extraction unit 8 or, respectively, 9 may be respectively connected subsequent to the high-pass filter 6 and the low-pass filter 7 in the estimation unit 13. The features acquired from the feature extraction unit 9 may be associated with model data of a model 10, and the resulting data may then be compared in an evaluation unit 11 with the data of the feature extraction unit 8. The comparison result is a measurement of the system distance, with which the feedback compensator 5 is controlled.

Paragraph [0018] at pages 5 and 6 has been amended as follows:

[0018] The function of the estimation unit 13 can be specified as follows: the input signal of the hearing device is separated by the high-pass filter 6 and the low-pass filter 7 into a high-frequency portion and a low-frequency portion. The

threshold between high-frequency and low-frequency may be selected such that the typical ensuing coupling is arranged in the high-frequency range. For example, the threshold is at 1.5 kHz.